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The Quest for the Ashes

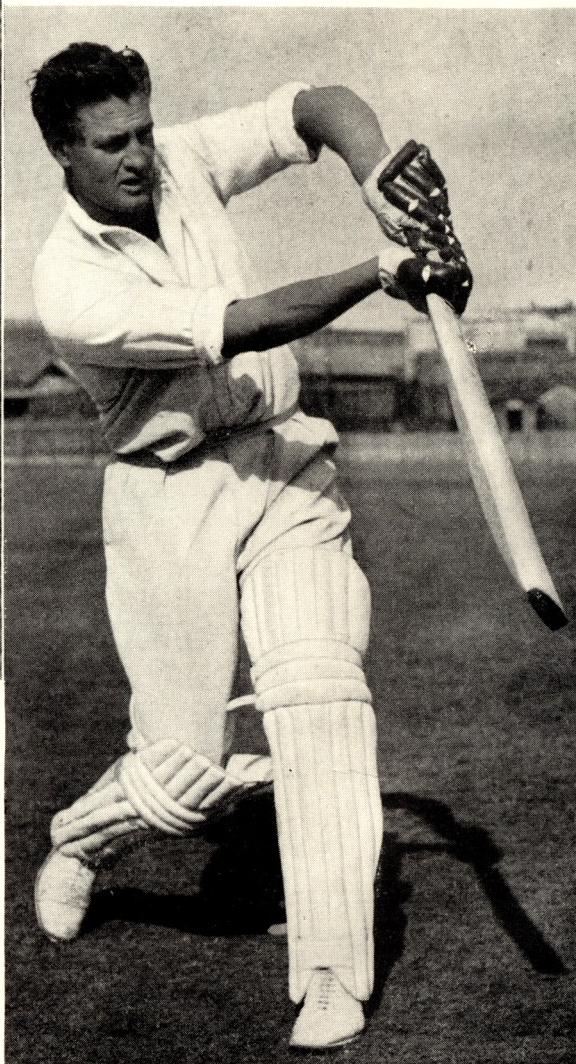


The captain, Ian Johnson, above, class bowler and batsman capable of getting the runs when they are most needed.

The vice-captain, Keith Miller, at right, who shines in batting and bowling departments and is classed among the greatest all-rounders produced by the game.

—“Courtesy, “The Sun.”

Ian Johnson (captain) and Keith Miller (vice-captain) will seek to regain the Ashes with a team which is rated generally as being well-balanced if not up to the standard of Australian elevens which have won, and lost, the Ashes. We may depend on all representing their country worthily on and off the field.





Established 14th May, 1858

TATTERSALL'S CLUB

Sydney

'Phone: BM 6111

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The CLUBMAN'S Corner



ADD to the long list of men of world-rated importance who have been guests of this club, Alfred G. Vanderbilt, millionaire-sportsman, stud master and racing patron who has at the moment 80 horses in training and who bred and raced Native Dancer, placed second only to Man O' War as greatest-ever American horse.

★ ★

THE American visitor joined the Chairman (John Hickey) and members of the committee in a round of drinks, at the Chairman's invitation, and took lunch later with Committeeman Frank Carberry and Secretary David Dawson.

MR. VANDERBILT is on a tour of various countries in connection with the War Veterans' Fund which provides the money for the War Veterans' Association, an international organisation. He's a friendly, quietly spoken man of easy charm, a regular guy, as the Americans say.

★ ★

PHILLIP SHIPWAY recalled at luncheon in the club a poser addressed to the Royal Zoological Society by the Kosciusko Trust: "Are brumbies wild animals?" That was several years ago, and the society is still meditating.

INCIDENTALLY, Phillip Shipway's grandmother was born in George Street near the Hordern emporium which fire destroyed at the turn of the century. Her mother was a sister of a son of the original Anthony Hordern.

★ ★

MORGAN LLOYD JONES, of Brisbane, returned from overseas, spoke highly of the hospitality he experienced.

★ ★

TOM COOK, who bred and raced horses in recent years, is still troubled with his health. A cheerio call from old clubmates by 'phone or in person would be certain to be appreciated.

EDITORIAL: *The Golden Rule*

Words of frequent usage nowadays are "moral responsibility" and "moral obligation" — so frequent as almost to become commonplace. Are they applicable to the practical way of life? If so, of what significance?

No doubt opinions will vary. Some persons will claim that to-day's code, as practised by the majority, is healthy; others will contend that the trend is not reassuring — in plain words, on the down.

How one looks at life overall, or the morality of life in part, is a matter of personal conscience — whether it is adjusted to strict or casual concept of the difference between right and wrong. First of all, what constitutes right? Next, what makes wrong? Probably you would not get complete agreement among 12 men chosen at random. There would be shades of distinction,

differences in arriving at a scale of values. As there could be no common agreement, a unanimous, even two-thirds majority, verdict could not be entered for good or for evil.

There is, however, an unwritten code which everybody who is honest accepts as being the golden rule. "Honour and Friendship" we call it.

It implies more than it defines, like the unwritten Constitution of England, which neither commands nor demands in terminology, but leaves apparent to all good men and true what are the rules of the game and how they should be played.

Thus, "moral responsibility" and "moral obligation" mean no more than that — which is saying a mouthful.

GUEST OF HONOUR

HIS EXCELLENCY the Governor, Sir John Northcote, K.C.M.G., K.C.V.O., C.B., honoured this club by his presence at luncheon on February 15th as guest of the Chairman (John Hickey) and members of his committee.

His Excellency, in other years, had unveiled in the club room a plaque bearing names of members who had served in both World Wars.

His address on that occasion was a memorable utterance extolling duty and its related attributes.

From time to time notable personages will be guests in club of the Chairman and members of his committee.

Such happy occasions, together with the practice of making welcome personalities from overseas, including members of associated clubs, as well as visiting amateur sporting teams, will continue to enhance universally the status and stature of Tattersall's Club, the club with a tradition.

NEVILLE SELLWOOD said in an interview over the air that his ambition was not to become a trainer, but to breed and race horses.

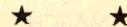


MARRIED: Walter McGrath, Jnr.

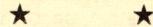


E. W. (TED) ADAMS, club member (elected 27-7-42), deputy to another member, Roy Hendy, for many years, stepped into the No. 1 civic administrator's post on the retirement of Mr. Hendy as Town Clerk of Sydney. Ted Adams was a State cricketer and since retiring from active playing, has given the game the benefit of progressive thinking and a diplomatic approach to controversies.

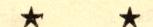
ROY HENDY was a R.U. player, captain of Randwick, in his sporting heyday, and was a member of S. & G. Trust by virtue of his office of Town Clerk.



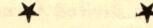
EVERY PICTURE tells a story (even a fish story): Secretary David Dawson landed this whopper while holidaying at Toukley, top of Terrigal Lakes. Feeling that his comrades might not believe him he called for the camera.



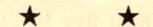
ON business trip: Adolph Basser and Preston Saywell. Going soon: L. K. Douglass.



BACK from Japan: S. Fox.

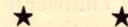


OFF to U.S.: F. M. Daly, F. E. Johns.



CLUB member Tom Prescott wrote of his forthcoming birthday party in London in the course of a letter to club member Frank Tinworth in Sydney. Representatives of the Scotch whisky houses would attend. John Starkey & Son (established 1796) has invited Tom to luncheon.

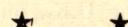
TOM added: It is wonderful how people buy whisky, always a double, costing 4/6 to 5/- a nip and 36/- a bottle which means 45/- with exchange.



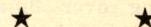
OFF to U.S.: Mr. and Mrs. Fred Clift.



LEAVING soon on a business trip of the U.K. and U.S.: Bob Cathels.



TOM COLEMAN, who died suddenly last month, had been a good and faithful employee of Tattersall's Club for 26 years. He was known to every member and had their respect. He officiated as referee in our billiards and snooker tournaments to the satisfaction of the billiards sub-committee and the competitors.



WELCOME back to W. F. Nelson from a trip overseas.

RIPENESS IS ALL

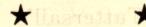
Men of fifty don't dance mazurkas, being generally too fat and wheezy; nor do they sit for hours together on river banks at their mistresses' feet, being somewhat afraid of rheumatism. But for real true love—love at first sight, love to devotion, love that robs a man of his sleep, love that "will gaze an eagle blind," love that "will hear the lowest sound when the suspicious tread of theft is stopped," love that is "like a Hercules, still climbing trees in the Hesperides"—we believe the best age is from forty-five to seventy; up to that, men are generally given to mere flirting.—Anthony Trollope, "Barchester Towers".

CLUBMAN'S CORNER

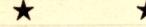
NICK ABOUD was given a bon voyage luncheon by fellow directors of the Buckingham Group. The chairman told a representative gathering of businessmen: "Nick plans to visit 49 countries in 76 days". This was taken as a sly reference to his hustling form.



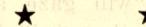
ADOLPH BASSER, now on an overseas tour, hopes to see racing in the U.K., on the Continent and in the U.S. As he has first pick of the first crop of Delta's progeny, he is unlikely to buy overseas.



WE have members of the judiciary among our members. They find distraction from submissions by learned counsel is sometimes a trial to the trial judge, as one of the counsel put it—by playing a game of snooker, chatting over luncheon on any subject but law, or giving half an hour to reading of magazines.



THOMAS JANUARIUS SMITH, chairman of the Board of Fire Commissioners, is a regular visitor to the club. He rushes up to the lift like a fire engine being propelled to an urgent call—such is his quick-thinking, quick-moving makeup—but relaxes once settled into the club among fellow members who have shut out the external world of clangour and disputation.



ARCH HATRICK (A. C. Hatrick Pty. Ltd.) whose colors are carried at Randwick, returned from a business trip overseas, produced a cutting from the Aden Chronicle describing a combined horse-camel race meeting which he attended with the temperature at 110 in the shade.

Happy Birthday Greetings

An old greeting, but ever new: Good health, good luck and a toast to you!

Though your days be many or, maybe, few, what else may fail you, what else you rue, count us among the tried and the true.

MARCH

1 A. J. Boulton	15 Ian Jacobson	F. H. Bowes	R. H. Fleming
W. A. G. Purss	F. J. Williams	2 Allen Walker	E. W. Newman
A. J. Keeling	S. A. Willmott	A. L. Young	17 R. H. Nuttall
G. H. Routley	H. B. Jones	3 J. A. McQuade	Dr. R. G. McKay
2 W. H. Lannen	J. A. Stevenson	4 A. E. Mahony	T. L. Fines
W. J. Storey	F. Fitzpatrick	D. P. Coughlan	18 Dr. M. J. Slattery
W. A. Casben	17 G. A. Pratten	5 W. J. McIver	A. L. Bragg
K. E. Longworth	P. J. Ratcliffe	S. P. Owen	Peter Williams
R. S. Hamilton	18 H. R. Leeder	Arthur Norton	H. W. Smith
Roy Hendy, C.M.G.	R. B. Porter	J. E. Burley	
W. L. Winter	John Marron	Dr. H. Bruce	19 T. W. Reid
Arthur	F. J. Ruwald	Williams	J. Levenson
McNaughton	19 R. W. C. Anderson	6 G. E. Nagel	A. E. Abrahams
F. J. Carberry	L. R. Harrison	M. Tolz	20 Arthur Smith
I. M. Davis	R. C. Beveridge	7 R. S. Bailey	F. J. Alderman
J. R. Stallwood	Dr. A. R. Colwell	N. R. Plomley	T. F. Nash
A. A. Ritchie	Jack Morris	J. H. G. Wilkes	C. A. Smith
V. C. Bear	N. A. L. Taylor	L. C. Laurence	W. J. Trotter
Vincent Carroll	C. Brelaz	Richard Johnson	P. J. O'Malley-Jones
J. A. Fraser	22 E. L. Callaway	9 P. R. Harnett	
P. J. Monahan	Jack Allen	Dr. F. A. Bell-ingham	21 F. H. Brown
Dr. K. S. Richardson	J. A. Driscoll	George Gibson	22 J. W. Breckenridge
E. H. Hazell	E. J. Morgan	Charles Dunk	R. R. Piggie
G. W. Mills	C. S. Tidmarsh	S. Cremer	
E. R. Theodore	23 T. A. Greaves	10 Mr. Justice Dovey	23 D. Lotherington
J. D. Mullan	J. L. Monaro	K. A. Bennett	J. G. Perry
Judge Eric Clegg	S. T. Tucker	J. L. Gibbs	A. T. Cusick
M. O. Barnett	M. O. Barnett	B. G. Cupit	R. I. S. Keogh
L. R. Lewis	L. R. Lewis		J. F. Fleming
M. Zukerman	24 E. J. Fletcher	11 R. Price	24 J. Mandel
L. K. Martin	25 Mark W. Whitby, Sr.	J. S. Cumming	R. B. McAdyen
J. R. Paull	N. B. Thompson	C. G. D. Allman	25 Hector Reid
K. H. Quinnett	J. H. Farrar	E. M. Fanker	E. A. Westhoff
L. S. Maddrell	J. A. Roles	12 R. L. McKinnon	Dr. W. Llewellyn Rees
A. G. Collins	M. Frank Albert	J. S. Dunne	26 W. T. Franklin
W. D. Wyatt	S. Goldberg	B. A. Grace	S. H. Henderson
Max Pemberton	S. J. Hart	F. G. Proctor	R. D. Fuller
J. H. Pepper	J. N. Russell	J. H. Wells	27 R. E. Eastway
C. C. Henrys	R. J. Want	D. J. Connolly	B. J. L. Davis
J. H. E. Nathan	27 S. N. Allen	E. F. Wilkinson	W. D. Bibey
A. A. Ray	J. A. Sullivan	O. Keyser	J. H. Peters
Ronald Bowerman	A. W. Lander	W. A. McDonald	28 Geo. Sanderson
F. Vockler, Sr.	Judge McKeon	Alan W. Anderson	W. R. Laforest
M. Stevens	29 G. J. C. Moore	14 W. J. Bradley, Q.C.	H. S. Barrow
12 A. W. Armstrong	C. J. Johnson	F. N. Manhood	J. M. Coughlan
C. T. King	30 G. Y. Seymour	R. E. Lay	29 N. H. B. Brown
L. B. Isaacs	31 J. L. McDermott	D. N. Merrett	H. H. Buckley
H. E. Herman	G. R. Bryden	15 K. A. Smith	A. Stockman
G. W. Savage	Harry Brooks	16 F. E. Shepherd, Snr.	30 P. T. Kavanagh
J. P. O'Neill	S. Rubensohn	J. W. Nagel	J. M. Furlong
H. K. Gayfer		Lewis Ross	Herbert M. Abbott
		A. J. Alsop	Hugh Marshall

APRIL

1 Dr. N. Rau	Judge A. E.	14 W. J. Bradley,	THREE club members took a
Dr. T. E. Gibson	Rainbow	F. N. Manhood	prominent part in promoting
	A. J. Alsop	R. E. Lay	the success of the Inter-Dominion

Members are invited to notify the Secretary of the date of their Birthday.

ARCH added: "It takes anything from five to 30 minutes to get the camels off their knees. Once the race begins it seems mostly a match as to which jockey can toss the other off before reaching the winning post. Hardihood of the horses is proved by some being saddled up two or three times in one afternoon. Sydney horses could not stand up to that."

THREE club members took a prominent part in promoting the success of the Inter-Dominion Pacing Championship: Alton Cusick, president of N.S.W. Trotting Club; J. Reeves, hon. treasurer; Asher Joel, public relations officer. Success was theirs because of top-rate organisation in every department, including the social.

Buy of Million-Dollar Horse Regarded as Gamble

Leslie Combs, U.S. breeder, who paid 1,251,000 dollars for Nashua and refused an offer of 1,500,000 dollars, is regarded as having made one of the greatest gambles in racing history, according to Sydney "Truth's" U.S. correspondent.

NA SHUA, certified as sound in wind and limb by the Bellair Stud, may win several 100,000 dollar races — or he may be weighted out of the picture. He could be sterile and worthless as a sire. Or his get could be mediocre.

Combs is gambling that Nashua has a lot of racing left in him and that he might turn out to be the greatest sire since Man o' War.

"I figured he's worth 700,000-800,000 dollars as a stud horse and — if you're lucky — he should win the rest of his purchase price racing," said Combs after the Bellair Stud's 62 horses were sold at auction.

Many racing men think Combs was foolish, but they all agree that no one in America knows horseflesh better.

Even before he bought Nashua, Combs had nine stallions at his Kentucky breeding farm worth an incredible 2,700,000 dollars and including Australia's Bernborough.

Combs' home base is Spendthrift Farm, a magnificent 1,300-acre layout in Kentucky.

Bernborough's Price

Up until 1948 the top price paid for a horse was 265,000 dollars for Tracery.

In that year, Louis B. Mayer, the movie producer, paid 300,000 dollars for the Australian horse, Bernborough.

Combs then headed a syndicate which bought Shannon II, also for 300,000 dollars.

In partnership with several men in the same year Combs paid the new record price of 500,000 dollars to Mayer for his stallion, Alibhai.

A few months ago, Combs combined with John W. Hanes to pay 600,000 dollars for the 10-year-old French stallion, My Babu.

Before the Nashua sale, the highest price ever paid for a horse was the 700,000 dollars the Irish National Stud paid to the Aga Khan for the stallion, Tulyar. After Tulyar earned 106,400 dollars in stud fees, the National Stud sold him to an American syndicate for 672,000 dollars.

Rosy Prospects

The classic American stallion of all time, of course, was Man o' War.

After a great racing career as a three-year-old, Man o' War stood at stud for 22 seasons and sired 386 foals at a fee of 5,000 dollars, highest in the world at that time.

Many of his get won classic races and the Man o' War is still a very strong strain.

Nashua probably could get 10,000 dollars for a stud service — and only 100 fees of that size would mean 1,000,000 dollars to Combs and his partners.

But breeders will want to see

what happens in three or four years when Nashua's get start running.

Turfmen also point out that Man o' War was exceptionally long-lived for a horse.

ARAB SHEIK, A MARE AND A DAUGHTER

AS told by Sir John Malcolm: An Arab Sheik, or chief, who lived within 50 miles of Bussorah, had a favorite breed of horses. He lost one of his best mares, and could not for a long while discover whether she had been stolen or had strayed.

Some time after, a young man of a different tribe, who had long wished to marry the Sheik's daughter, but had always been rejected by the Sheik, obtained the damsel's consent and eloped with her.

The Sheik and his followers pursued, but lover and mistress, mounted on the one horse, made a wonderful march, and escaped. Upon this the old chief swore that the fellow was either mounted upon the devil, or the favorite mare he had lost.

On his return, the Sheik found the latter was the case; that the lover was the thief of his mare, as well as of his daughter, and that the fellow stole the one to enable him carry off the other.

The Sheik was gratified to think he had not been beaten by a mare of another breed, and was reconciled to the young man, in order that he might recover the mare, which appeared an object about which he was more solicitous than about his daughter.

TRACK AND FIELD PROSPECTS IN OLYMPIC GAMES

Written specially for Tattersall's Magazine by Keith Donald

**THE ATHLETIC PROGRAMME COVERS 26 MEN'S AND NINE WOMEN'S EVENTS,
ALL CONDUCTED OVER METRIC DISTANCES. AT HELSINKI 57 COUNTRIES
ENTERED FOR THE MEN'S EVENTS AND 39 FOR THE WOMEN'S. MELBOURNE
CAN EXPECT MORE.**

SO great has been the improvement in world standards that most of the records set at Helsinki and previous Games could be surpassed. In 1955 alone there were 39 men's and 18 women's world record performances. The coming season abroad should continue this progress, so that by next November we can expect to see phenomenal performances.

As the Games are the world championships, they emphasise the struggle of man against man and, in many cases, the results are inferior to world records. Many reputations meet defeat in the Olympic arena where stamina, endurance and tactics are tested in the process of preliminary rounds and finals.

It is difficult at this stage to forecast the results and I can only show the achievement to date, remembering that there will be some champions who have not yet shown their potential.

One important factor must be borne in mind. It is the first time the Games have been held in the Southern Hemisphere so it will be interesting to see how the Northern Hemisphere countries can cope with a new season here.

I think the best way of presenting the picture as it is now would be to take each event and examine known performances in relation to the Olympic records and to try to indicate likely winners.

The 100 metres record of 10.3 seconds held jointly by Tolan, Owens and Dillard of America has been equalled four times by Williams and Richard (U.S.A.), Agostini (Trinidad) and Futterer (Germany). Futterer has been most consistent and could upset the American grip on this

of 45.9 secs., the former being a world record. Australia's Kevan Gosper (46.6) is among the best seven in the world and is showing excellent form with a 46.9 secs. already this year.

In the 800 metres the first ten in the world have improved on Whitfield's Olympic record of 1 m. 49.2 secs. Moens (Belgium) with a world record of 1 m. 45.7 secs. leads Boysen (Norway) 1 m. 45.9 secs. and Spurrier and Courteney (U.S.A.) 1 m. 46.8 secs.

The 1500 metres or the

The Olympic Games will bring to Australia the greatest gathering of track and field athletes in our history. When competitors leave in December one thing is certain: they will have rewritten the whole of our records, and many times will stand for years to come.

event, but America should again provide the majority of finalists. Morrow (U.S.) has some excellent 100 yards times and could win.

Morrow with 20.5 secs. heads the 200 metres performances. Futterer (20.6) is next and both are ahead of Owens' and Stanfield's record of 20.7 secs.

Two Americans Jones (45.4) and Lea (45.6) have bettered Rhoden's and McKenley's record

"Metric Mile" will be one of the glamour events. Already the first 10 have bettered Barthel's 1952 record of 3 m. 45.2 secs. Hungarians Iharos and Tabori (3 m. 40.8 secs.), who were recently in Australia with Nielsen (Denmark), head the field. Now that John Landy has returned in fine form, Australia can look to this event with a proprietary interest. Tactics will play such an important part

Next Page

that the time could either be phenomenal or well below world figures.

When the amazing Zatopek, a Czech, set an Olympic record of 14 m. 6.6 secs. in the 5000 metres in Helsinki it was little thought that by the end of 1955 the first 10 in the world would be below it. Iharos (Hungary), with a phenomenal 13 m. 40.6 secs. world record, leads Kuts (Russia) 13 m. 46.8 secs. Australian Dave Stephens showed his superiority over Iharos recently and could be a danger.

The Russians

In the 10,000 metres Kuts (Russia) with 28 m. 59.2 secs. leads the field with two other Russians, Anufriyev and Chernyauskiy, in the first four. Again Stephens' recent world 6-miles' record should have given him a world record of approximately 28m. 46 s. had he gone the extra distance. Zatopek's Olympic record of 29 m. 17 secs. should suffer defeat.

Zatopek will look to the marathon for his gold medal but he can expect serious challenge from Argentine which has lately shown superiority. I am afraid that lack of experience could affect the Australians even though Ollerenshaw's 2 h. 22 m. 18 s. last year was better than Zatopek's winning time in Helsinki.

Phenomenal Times Could Stand For Many Years

It is in the hurdle events that Australia could show out. Ray Weinberg and Ken Doubleday of Victoria are running again and Weinberg's time in the Victorian titles in 14.3 secs. over 110 metres hurdles could make him a finalist. The 13.7 secs. record at Helsinki has not been equalled although the holder Davis (U.S.A.) and Thomson (U.S.A.) lead the world with 13.8 secs. for the second year in succession.

THE 400 metres hurdles figures likewise fall below Moore's Helsinki record of 50.8 secs., Yulin (51.0) and Lituyev (51.3) of Russia being the best. Russia has produced some excellent quarter hurdlers with four in the first six in the world in 1955. Australia's hope is David Lean now in America. Although his best 52.5 is below these figures he is running well over the flat and could be prominent.

The 3000 metres steeplechase is a new event to Australian track followers but is one of the highlights of the Olympic programme. In Helsinki Ashenfelter of U.S.A. set new figures 8 m. 45.4 secs. In 1955 five Europ-

eans have equalled or bettered that time with Chromik (Poland) on top with 8 m. 40.2 secs. Australia's best is Thomas of N.S.W. 9 m. 08.4 secs. but improving every run.

The other men's track events are 20,000 metres walk in for the first time and two relays 4 x 100 metres and 4 x 400 metres. The relays are a wonderful spectacle but world figures to date are scarce because the best teams are national ones and the number of international meetings are few. Indications are, however, that America should vie with Russia in both events. The 1952 winners Jamaica has lost its strength in Rhoden, McKenley and Wint. Germany is a possibility in the shorter distance and Australia cannot hope for much success in either.

The Jumps

Turning to the jumps we find in the high jump Davis' 6' 8 $\frac{1}{4}$ " record at Helsinki beaten by 10 men in 1955. Shelton (U.S.A.) 6' 11 $\frac{1}{2}$ " and Nilsson (Sweden) 6' 10 $\frac{5}{8}$ " are on top with U.S.A. leading with five out of the ten best. Australia's best is Queenslander C. Porter's 6' 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ ", although Doug Stuart in America is credited with 6' 8".

Jesse Owens' long jump figures 26' 5 $\frac{3}{8}$ " haven't been shaken since he set them in Berlin in 1936 and this year should show no exception. Three Americans have exceeded 26 feet — Range (26' 4 $\frac{1}{8}"), Bennett (26' 3 $\frac{3}{8}$ ") and Bell (26' 0 $\frac{1}{2}"). Australia's best in 1955 was I. Bruce (S. Aust.) brother of 1948 silver medallist Bill Bruce with 23' 8 $\frac{3}{4}$ ".$$

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AUSTRALIAN WOMEN'S PROSPECTS

In the women's events we could win four of the nine events: 100 metres, 200 metres, 80 metres hurdles and 4 x 100 metres relay. Shirley Strickland, current holder of the world's 100 metres and 80 metres hurdles, is determined to do well in Melbourne and, knowing her, she will be in good form. Marlene Matthews, yet to be proved in international company, should on present form be well up in the 100 metres, could win the 200 metres, and anchor the relay. Nancy Boyle (Vic.) and Betty Cuthbert (N.S.W.) could complete the relay team with an excellent chance.

The Olympic Games

The Hop Step & Jump, once Australia's forte, is now Russia's domain. In the all time lists Australia ranks third in countries with over 50 feet headed by Japan and Russia in that order. Russia has rocketed to second place since 1952, and with five in the first ten in 1955 should fill major places although world record holder da Silva (Brazil) leads with 54' 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ ", more than 1 foot better than his Helsinki record.

Parson Bob Richards (U.S.A.) won the Pole Vault at Helsinki with a record 14' 11 $\frac{1}{4}$ ". In 1955 he (15' 3") and Bragg (U.S.A.) (15' 1") were the only vaulters to exceed 1952 figures. America holds six of the first 10 places and can regard this as a certainty. Australias best, 13' 4", is well down.

In the field events America is supreme. In the Shot Put, world record holder O'Brien leads seven Americans in the first 10. His 1955 best, 59' 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ ", exceeds his Olympic record, 57' 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ ". In fact, seven bettered this in 1955. Barry Donath of Victoria, 51' 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ ", is the best here and should improve sufficiently to gain Australia a place.

Consolini (Italy), 186' 11 $\frac{3}{4}$ ", is the best discus thrower ahead of Merta (Czech), 186' 0". The Olympic record, 180' 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ ", by Iness (U.S.A.), was exceeded five times in 1955 with the title-holder sixth with 179' 7 $\frac{1}{4}$ ". Australia's best is 145' 10 $\frac{1}{4}$ " well out of reckoning.

KRIVONOSOV (Russia) with 211' 8 $\frac{1}{4}$ " is the world's best Hammer Thrower. When Csermak (Hungary) won at Helsinki with 197" 11 $\frac{5}{8}$ ", then a world record, he was regarded as

phenomenal. Now eight, including him, have improved on this record in 1955, with six over 200 feet, and two Americans following the leader. N. Gadsden (166' 11"), our best, is far behind these figures.

With the leader and three in the first five U.S.A. should get major places in the Javelin, regarded up to 1952 as Finland's. F. Held (U.S.A.) with 268' 2 $\frac{1}{8}$ ", a world record, heads at least 10 who exceeded Young's (U.S.A.) Olympic record, 242' 0 $\frac{3}{4}$ ", in 1955. Australia's best was R. J. Grant, 205' 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ ", although Jim Achurch, the British Empire Champion, has done, and is capable of doing better, but not enough to be considered for a place.

The other events, jumps and field games, should go to Europe-

KEITH DONALD, AUTHOR OF THIS ARTICLE, HAS BEEN, FOR MANY YEARS, A PERSONALITY IN AUSTRALIAN AMATEUR ATHLETICS, FIRST AS AN ACTIVE PARTICIPANT, NEXT AS AN HONORARY OFFICIAL. HE WRITES AUTHORITATIVELY. HE WAS MANAGER OF THE AUSTRALIAN ATHLETIC TEAM TO THE HELSINKI GAMES.

eans, principally Russians, where they seem to breed women with the physique of men. If success in these events requires that then I for one prefer that we have no success at all in that field.

So while our prospects overall are not like those of the swim-



MR. SAM HORDERN, president of the Royal Agricultural Society, an office held for many years by his father, Sir Samuel Hordern.

HAVE you a birthday to celebrate by luncheon or dinner, or a bon voyage function to stage? The club can accommodate you.

mers they are promising, we will look to Hogan and Randall (sprints), Gosper (400 metres), Landy and Lincoln (1500 metres), Stephens (5000 and 10,000 metres), Weinberg (110 metres hurdles), Lean (400 metres hurdles) and Donath (shot) as finalists in men's events with Landy and Stephens most likely gold medalists.

On the distaff side Strickland is the most likely gold medalist with Matthews and the relay team finalists.

Pure Breds at the Royal

FOR the breeders themselves, it is a unique opportunity to see, side-by-side, the best animals from the leading studs of Australia, to notice what has been achieved, to gain new ideas and modify old, to discuss with others in the same industry matters of mutual interest.

For the general public as well, the Grand Parade, held every afternoon from the Wednesday official opening to the last day of the Show on the following Tuesday, is one of the finest livestock spectacles in the world. A broadcast expert commentary keeps spectators fully informed about the breeds.

One notable exception from the Grand Parade is the thoroughbred. Several years ago, being particularly aware of the thoroughbred's capacity to produce fine hacks and light horses for the many needs of the country people, the R.A.S. greatly expanded the thoroughbred classes and prizemoney. To-day, these classes are the greatest of their kind in Australia.

Their judging is a star turn of the main arena; no other events take place and the ring is cleared before the thoroughbreds are brought in. It is held on the Thursday afternoon, the day following the official opening of the Show.

Owing to the enormous value of the animals competing in these classes, the R.A.S. arranges elaborate precautions to protect them while at the Showground. They are taken into and from the arena in their own floats and may be taken direct from the grounds after leaving the ring.

Encouragement of breeding pure-bred livestock is one of the main objectives of the Royal Agricultural Society of N.S.W. At Sydney's Royal Easter Show, from March 23 to April 3, the results of this encouragement are assessed and given public recognition.

The R.A.S. is aware that the racecourse is the testing ground of the thoroughbred, where strength and weaknesses are found. From the knowledge gained by racing performance, the Australian breeder has been able to evolve a better and more useful horse.

THE interest of the Society in the thoroughbred goes back to its very origin, for recorded in one of the addresses of the Agricultural Society of N.S.W., which was founded in 1822, is the birth of the first thoroughbred foaled in the colony. It was a fine bay foal, dropped by Mr. Iceley's imported thoroughbred mare, in April, 1826.

Splendid Opportunity

For the 1956 Royal, the closing date for entries in the thoroughbred and stud trotting sections has been extended to within fourteen days of the Show. This closing date of March 9 is three months later than for the previous show.

With nominations so close to the Show, owners and trainers will be in a position to know definitely whether a horse can be entered, and the Society hopes that this will encourage even greater support for this section from those associated with it.

The Showground parade of thoroughbreds gives the owners of brood mares a splendid opportunity to judge for them-

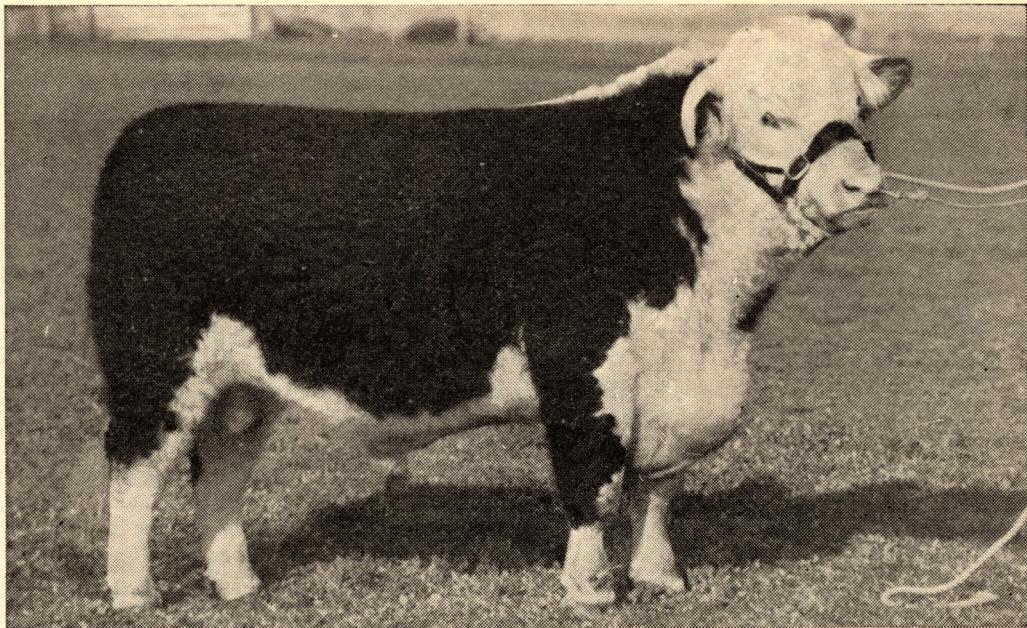
selves the value, characteristics, and conformation of stallions. By being shown at the Royal, these stallions are likely to be in greater demand during the mating season in September and October.

Yearlings which win their classes greatly increase their value.

Eight classes are provided for the thoroughbreds, with prize money well over 400 guineas. Additionally, there are awards of 25 guineas each for the champion stallion or colt and mare or filly, donated by William Inglis and Son Pty. Ltd. and F. W. Hughes Pty. Ltd., respectively, as well as sashes. Reserve champions are also awarded sashes.

Further, the Australian Jockey Club donates £105 and a trophy valued at £52/10/- for the best thoroughbred exhibit.

THE classes provided are: The Sydney Morning Herald Stallion, any age, at stud; the United Batteries Stallion, two years old and over, in training; the Woodlands Stud Yearling Colt; the Sydney Turf Club Station Sire, three years old and over; the Tattersall's Club Brood Mare, three years old and over; the Widden Stud Mare, two years old and over, in training; the Woodlands Stud Yearling Filly; and the St. Aubins Stud Mare or Filly, two years old or over, not in training, other than a brood mare.



TYPICAL OF PURE BREDS: Tarrington Keep On (imp.). The bull which was selected from the Tarrington Herd of Mr. H. Griffiths, Hereford, England, in 1952, as the new sire for the "South Boorook" Stud.

The R.A.S. has always been alert to recognise the great part played by those whose constant care and endeavour contribute so much to the wellbeing of the thoroughbreds and has a special list of awards for the studmasters and attendants in each class. Often highly strung and temperamental, the thoroughbreds depend greatly on the affection and attention of those whose duty it is to look after them every day of the year.

Twelve classes are held for stud trotters with prize money totalling £365. The champion stallion receives the John H. S. Angus Memorial Cup or Trophy or open order valued at 15 guineas, in addition to the championship ribbon.

Particularly popular events with Showground visitors are the trotting exhibitions, and this year the Society believes that they will win greater approval

than ever. Not only has prize-money been increased for most events by 20 per cent., but detailed consultations were held with trotting officials to make the events more attractive in other ways. As a result a number of the ratings were changed.

Fine Breeding

Drivers themselves compete automatically for the Anthony Hordern most successful Gentlemen Drivers' Contest on a point score, each first prize counting as three points, second as two, and third as one. Total prizemoney given is £100.

The lover of the thoroughbred usually appreciates the fine breeding of any pure bred livestock and a Royal Easter Show brings the best together within a common boundary. It is little wonder that thousands spend hours among the stalls and stables, often travelling many hundreds of miles for the purpose.

Estimating the value of the livestock at a Sydney Royal is not simple, but a figure of £2,000,000 would be a fair estimate.

Support for the cattle section this year has broken all records and four of the panel of 14 judges for this section will come from overseas.

Sheep are not shown at the Royal Easter Show, as they have their own show, which will be held this year at the Sydney Showground from May 30 to June 2.

W. E. Black, who writes bowling notes with a graceful touch, is recuperating at Narabeen after a spell in St. Vincent's hospital. He will take up pen again on his return to office. Our good wishes and thanks for the service he renders this magazine.

The Straight Six at Newmarket

How different is to-day's approach to forecasting the winner of the V.R.C. Newmarket Handicap, run down the straight six furlongs at Flemington. It does not seem so many years ago — actually it is long years ago — that one first of all ticked off the names of the entrants capable of running one mile. "Fast but squibby" you would say about this runner or that and eliminate him forthwith.

THE idea in mind was that the Straight Six was a much harder race than a six run round the conventional bends; in effect, its distance increased because of this. It worked out that way a good few times, too; sufficient at all events to cause the "look for a miler" to become more or less a dictum of substance.

Horses like Cetinge, Molly's Robe, Rostrum, Heroic, Gothic (who won two in succession), Ajax, Mildura all qualified. Now and again a straight-out sprinter would come along and upset calculations.

Obviously a good sprinter capable of running one mile is a good choice, but if it came to-day between selecting a fast front-running six-furlong horse and a moderately fast-beginning miler, nine in 10 backers would pick the sprinter.

Horses like Aurie's Star, Gay Queen, High Jip, Cultured, Birdwood are winners who were at their best at six furlongs.

There is, perhaps, a good reason for this change in approach to picking a Newmarket Handicap winner. The Newmarket Handicap of to-day,—or any sprint race for that matter—is no longer run as it was in, say, in the middle 1920's.

Horsemen like Jim Pike, Jimmy Munro, Maurice McCarten, Ashley Reed, Tich Wilson—a dozen more could be named—were in full swing. It seems in these far-off days that there were more riders of an even high class than there are to-day.

It is not suggested that those riders were better than the top

balance while his mount "found his legs" . . . And I cannot help interpolating, a master, too, at sitting like a mouse while his front runner "died" under him in the finish—but still the winner.

And how would those riders fare to-day were the clock put back 30 years and were they to ride with those tactics!

My belief is that they would be left so far behind at the end of the first furlong that their mounts would have hopeless tasks in the run home.

The point of it all is this: Whereas a quarter of a century ago the first couple of furlongs in a sprint down the straight six

Historic Retrospect-and Prospects

riders of to-day. Far from it. Everything in the world develops and improves. Racing has not lagged and certainly riding tactics and skill have not been left behind in the march of progress.

The Real Pace

And this is exactly the point I want to make. It is controversial, but I firmly believe it.

In those days a sprint field broke from the barrier and each rider would let his mount settle down before putting him to his top.

Sometimes a field would go half a furlong, or it seems like that now, before the real pace would go on.

Without attempting comparisons, Jimmy Pike was a master at sitting like a mouse in perfect

was run comparatively slowly, to-day's riders will clap the pace on within a few strides of the jump out if they are on a really fast, competent sprinter.

In those days the miler had an opportunity to wind up before the sprinters out in front got too far away from him; to-day if he is only a moderate beginner he is so far behind at the end of the first two furlongs that he would have to run an "impossible" half mile to catch the leaders at the post.

It is not now always wise to look to the miler in a six-furlong race.

I always imagine that Andy Knox helped this change in tactics more than any other rider. It was an inevitable change but

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The Straight Six—From Previous Page

it became more pronounced round about the 1930's when Knox, a noted bustling rider from the unregistered ranks, stood down and became registered under A.J.C. rules.

Out from the barrier, into the lead, and make for home—that was the way he rode at the "ponies". He did it in his new sphere and was an instant success among the riders of his time.

Others had to match him to stop him getting the early break and evolution in riding technique was given a sharp shove along.

Sprint riding has developed along those lines ever since.

Therefore my pick for the Newmarket will be from the four horses likely to be well in the front half way through the race. Unless, of course, there is another Bernborough—which is entirely a different story.

The Newmarket Handicap is a race rich in lore. Perhaps it is losing some of its importance these days because the circuit of racing has changed so much.

Winter racing in Brisbane has invested the Stradbroke Handicap and the Doomben Ten Thousand with so much interest that those races are fast approaching acknowledgement as Australia's top sprints—if they already have not reached that plane.



But there is one story of the Newmarket in the days when it was THE sprint race which was often told by one of the princes of trainers, Charlie Wheeler.

Wheeler had a sprinter, Queen of Scots, who was always good enough if she could be persuaded to jump away on terms. Queen of Scots was so temperamental that she would stick up even in a track trial. Then a kink in her make-up was discovered—she had an attachment for a stable pony and would break into a gallop on the track if the pony trotted with her for a furlong or so.

Trust the boys in those days to work out a way to exploit this new-found hope!

The pony was got into service as a mount for one of the barrier attendants.

Then on Newmarket day he trotted with Queen of Scots to the post and shepherded her into the line out. Up went the barrier and out jumped Queen of Scots to run the six in 1m. 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ s. which stood as the record for 12 years until Sunburst ran 1m. 12s. in 1923.

JOHN FULLER'S MEMOIRS

JOHN FULLER hit the headlines when he revisited Wellington (N.Z.) after 17 years. A local newspaper recorded: "Nearly 65 years ago John Fuller travelled through N.Z. with Minnie Everett and a company that played Gilbert and Sullivan productions.

"Little Johnny Fuller, aged 12, was call boy. In later years he became a city councillor."

The newspaper added: "Revisiting Wellington brought back many memories to John Fuller. In early days here the family had a greyhound called Roto, who carried a sign on his back

advertising the show. Roto knew his way round the different cities and served a useful purpose until he wandered into the Melbourne Town Hall one night, replete with sign, and sat on the stage during a rival singer's performance.

"As Roto joined the diva in an important aria, he became known as 'the singing dog.'

"One critic was unkind enough to say that Roto was the best singer in the Fuller family.

"Recalling singers, John Fuller said that the £180 weekly the Fullers paid Gladys Moncrieff was the highest salary

they had ever paid, although the £100 weekly Carrie Moore received to sing in Wellington after her 'Merry Widow' successes was also considered a big sum for those days. The former, who has found a popular medium in radio in Australia, made a fortune for the Fullers with 'Rio Rita'."

"Very well, that's settled," said the producer, as he blotted the contract. "But I must warn you that if you work for Perfection Pictures Ltd., you'll have to lead a life of strict morality."

"Oh, can't my understudy do that?" was the star's reply.

Weight Stops Trains . . . It also Keeps the Best of the Horses at Home

More than half the horses nominated for the A.J.C. Doncaster Handicap, to be run at Randwick on March 31, were weighted at 7.7 or less, and 67 of the 124 entrants for the Sydney Cup (April 2) have less than 7.5, which indicates that both handicaps include many with modest race form.

HOWEVER, in recent seasons horses lacking outstanding form have won both events though some winners carried upwards of 8 st. Topweights have found the going tough in this Autumn double, which points to the fact that the handicapper has given them just too much to bring success.

Looking over the results of the past 10 years it is found that Blue Legend 7.5, The Diver 7.12, Grey Boots 7.7, Oversight 7.13, Prelate 7.0, Triclinium 7.4, (he got the race when Tarien was disqualified) and Fire Dust 7.10, all won the Doncaster with less than 8 st., while in the Sydney Cup Cordale 7.7, Proctor 7.10, Sir Falcon 7.13, Bankstream 7.0, Opulent 7.1, and Talisman 7.4, landed the two-miler with less than 8 st.

During the stretch of years mentioned, Blue Legend, (second success), won the Doncaster with 8.11 and Bernbrook and Karendi each with 8.4, while Carioca succeeded in the Sydney Cup with 8.9, Gold Scheme with 8.7, and Carbon Copy with 8.5.

All this goes to prove that owners of the best performers at times have had reasonable grounds for complaining when their horses—in their opinion—are severely treated in the weights, and on which point critics sometimes agree.

Surest way to keep topline gallopers from important events is to inflict crushing imposts. Flattering handicaps invariably bring best results so far as club executives are concerned, and committees of such racing bodies find the best horses in the line up at their meetings. This has been particularly noticeable at Brisbane.

Early markets framed on the Doncaster Hep and the Sydney Cup have undergone changes and there will be further alterations as race day comes nearer.

upwards of 50 year's ago, and there was only one Carbine.

Syntax might be a great horse. New Zealand form this season has been outstanding, but Sydney and Melbourne racegoers will have to wait until springtime before they see him.

Twenty-four three-year-olds have won the Sydney Cup, last of them Bankstream with 7 st. in 1951.

New Zealand horses were weighted at top of the list in both the Doncaster and the Sydney Cup but Prince Cortauld who had post of honor, in both events, didn't remain long in the weights.

Somerset Fair, at time of writing, was a popular candidate for the mile. King's Fair ran a

***Specially written for Tattersall's Club Magazine
by A. B. Gray***

Some first picks were quickly eliminated, particularly the decision to take New Zealand's star 3-yr.-old Syntax from the Sydney Cup. No one could blame the owner for making such announcement. He did the right thing by making a quick decision.

What Records Show

Records show that since the Cup was first run in 1866 the only 3-yr.-old's to win with 8.5 or more were Carbon Copy 8.5 (1949), Lord Cardigan 8.7 (1904), Wallace 8.12 (1896), Carbine 9st. (1889), and Australian Peer (1888). It will be seen that four of that five won

close second to Hans in the A.J.C. Epsom Hep. with 8.10 and has 9.2 in the Doncaster, which appears plenty seeing he was defeated. However, he also is prominent in the Doncaster market. Connections of Melbourne galloper The Orb were not happy about his 9.2 and he has been kept at home.

Other Prospects

Fire Dust won the Doncaster last year with 7.10 and has advanced to 8.3. That is well within his compass should he return to best form. Other prospects in the mile and still in at time of going to press include

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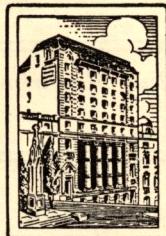
DONCASTER-SYDNEY CUP SURVEY

—Continued from Page 13

Alahvii, Kingster, Landy, Knave, and Empire Link.

Port Arthur won races earlier this season and started favorite for the A.J.C. Metropolitan won by Beaupa. Port Arthur finished fourth with 7.7 after having had every chance. Though he was unplaced, he has advanced four pounds for the Sydney Cup. In early betting lists he was one of the fancies and might go well but there are others with a good show, provided they go along the right way leading up to Cup day, and they include Caranna, Roman Holiday, Sailor's Guide, Beaupa, and Cambridge.

Eliminating further discussion on prospects, it seems horses at or near top of the weights in both the Doncaster and the Cup will need to be at their best to land the big end of the stake-money.



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NATURE'S WAY

THERE IS a reason for everything in nature. When the cow lies down it sinks fore-feet first, and rises on its fore-feet, but the horse goes down hind-feet first, and rises on its fore-feet.

The reason for this difference is that the wild oxen ancestors of the domestic cattle were forest-dwellers. Before lying down, and when rising they had first to scan the surroundings for potential enemies, keeping their heads low to see beneath the trees.

In contrast, wild horses lived on plains, where beasts of prey stalked. They had to keep their heads high to search for their enemies.

Leisure: The two minutes' rest a man gets while his wife thinks up something for him to do.

CRICKET WIN

THE Two-Year-Old Handicap, washed out at Rosehill last Saturday, was re-run several times during the same week at Randwick racecourse — in a cricket match (quoting the "Daily Mirror").

Fielding in slips for Tattersall's Club against the A.J.C., were George Christmas, owner of French Fable, and Jack Rogan, part-owner of Movie Boy, favoured horses for the Two - Year - Old Handicap. Thanks to the bag carrying ability of Jack Shaw, Jack Large, Jack Rogan and Sam Peters, Tattersall's scored 82 runs to beat the A.J.C. (50).

A.J.C. secretary Bill Parry-Okeden played a typical captain's innings, but he could not hold his side together, despite the support of veterinary Jim McFadden and legal man turned wicketkeeper, V. G. Wesche.

Biggest score of the day was 22 by Gordon player, Barry Eastment, whose family own Gallant Archer.

ASHES QUEST

THE SELECTORS knew best, although members of this club who picked the team to represent Australia in the quest to regain the cricket ashes may not be so certain.

So many unofficial selectors provided proof—if any were wanting—of cricket's appeal as a game. When contention goes out of any sport that's the time for its well-wishers to worry.

For our part, we are not concerned so much about the fate of the ashes as with the fortunes of the tour from the angle of stirring and sporting struggles and that a lasting impression be left among the English of the character of our players on the field and off.

Fundamentally, that's cricket.

A Timely Reminder about your Will

TO-DAY is the best time to read your Will in the light of to-day's conditions.

Discuss its business aspects with a Senior Officer of Perpetual Trustee Company (Limited). Consult your Solicitor in connection with its legal aspects.

Call or write for a copy of the Company's booklet on this important subject. You will find it helpful, interesting and informative. It describes the services offered by the Company—and its charges.

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WINE, WOMEN — AND BULL FIGHTS

**Ten days of the late autumn vintage in Andalusia (Spain)
are given over to the Vintage Festival and Fair — wine,
women and bullfights.**

THE Festival opens with the Vintage parade, when a procession of decorated floats winds its way through the crowded streets to finish at the fairground on the outskirts. The procession is headed by the Queen of the Festival and her attendant maidens, and since they are selected from the ranks of the pretty señoritas of Jerez, who yield nothing to the fabled ladies of Seville in the way of beauty, this float is greeted with especially appreciative applause and comment from the caballeros.

The religious highlight of the fiesta is the Blessing of the Grapes, which is given at the ancient Collegiate Church. Here again one is reminded of the Moorish influence, the style of the early architecture is unmistakable, for the Collegiate Church was once a mosque. The ceremony is moving, perhaps because of, rather than despite, its simplicity, and the reverence of the people who throng the square to see the little statue of St. Gines de la Jara, the patron saint of wine growers, borne from the Church to lend his presence to the Blessing by the Bishop. The Blessing given, the grapes are brought by a succession of pretty girls to the lagar erected in front of the Church, and emptied into it. (A lagar is a 10 ft. square trough in which the grapes are trodden.) Four vineyard workers, barelegged but wearing special studded footgear, then enter the

trough and begin the rhythmic treading.

In the silence only the soft squelching of the grapes can be heard, and then, as the first musto or grape juice begins to flow, there is a long drawn "ooooh" from the crowd. The sunny sky is suddenly darkened as a thousand pigeons are released and every church bell in the town clashes out in wild joy, to announce to every corner of Spain the tidings that the sherry vintage has commenced.

The ceremony over, all roads lead to the fairground, to innumerable glasses of sherry, the interminable Spanish lunch, and then to the Plaza do Toros, the bullring, for no Spanish fiesta would be complete without a bullfight.

Court of Beauty

During the following days, the lights of the fairground are never dimmed before 4 o'clock in the morning, and the skies are lit with the fuegos artificiales, the fireworks of which the Spaniard is inordinately fond. And then, as the grand finale, the social event of the season, the Juegos Florales de la Vendimia Jerezana, the award of the prizes to the winning poets in the literary competition, and the presentation of the symbolic rose to the Queen of the Festival.

It is said that all Spaniards are artists, and indeed they have a love of the living arts, of song,

and dance, of conversation and of spoken poetry, such as has not been known in the rest of Europe since the eighteenth century. The theatre is crowded, and from the stage, decorated as a Court of Beauty and presided over by the Queen, the poets declaim their prizewinning efforts, paying tributes to the beauty of the Queen, and the magnificence of the wines of Jerez. The audience are attentive, and there is a notable absence of the shuffling and coughing which would mark such an occasion elsewhere in Europe.

Carnival Spirit

Like all Spanish functions, this one begins late, and at 1.30 in the morning the greater part of the audience is on its way to the fairground for a very grand and very formal Ball. At 4 o'clock the party is well under way, but 6.30, when the sun is climbing the sky, even the Jerezanos decide to call it a night, or a day, and the Fiesta de la Vendimia y Feria is over.

But in the vineyards the work goes on, the gathering and the pressing of the grapes, and each hour sees more of the new season's wine born. For the next 355 days, Jerez returns to its daily task of producing sherry.—Abridged from an article in "The Compleat Inbiber", published by W. & A. Gilbey & Son Ltd.

The psychiatrist married a very ugly woman. "I know," he told friends, "she's ugly, she has a bad figure, she limps, she's cross-eyed and stupid — but, boy, what nightmares she has!"

POLO, THE SPORT THAT ALMOST DIED

Ten years ago this tough, exciting game was almost a thing of the past in Britain. To-day it is right back on to its hooves.

WHEN the war ended in 1945 very few polo grounds were left in Britain; where, in the past, they had enjoyed all the excitement of one of the fastest games in the world, the only sound was that of the tractor. The polo grounds had been absorbed into the farmlands in the interests of food production.

Now, ten years later, there are nearly as many grounds as there were before the war. Every Saturday and Sunday in the summer, a score of teams are playing somewhere or other in the country, and the game attracts not just a few enthusiasts but vast crowds of spectators,

most of whom have never sat astride a horse.

No man has done more than the Duke of Edinburgh to put polo back on its hooves again. He gives more than patronage to this grand, tough, exciting game. He plays it, and he plays it well, in the true spirit of the game. One fixture list is headed by the words: "Matches are never cancelled because of bad weather". That is the spirit in which the game of polo is always played. It is the spirit of esprit de corps, of determination—and, above all, of sportsmanship.

Polo as a spectacle has every-

thing—the thundering of hooves, the snorting of the eager ponies, the flash of whirling sticks, framed in a background of the British countryside at its most typical. And the game is so simple that the few rules are easily understood even by first-time spectators. To-day a good match draws a crowd of 10,000.

Gallant Fellow

One of the men chiefly responsible for the flourishing condition of polo to-day is Viscount Cowdray. During the war Lord Cowdray had his left arm shot off in Flanders by a shell, and everyone, except himself, thought his polo-playing days were over. Similarly, while many people considered the heyday of the game was past—killed by the toll of the war, and the rising cost of living—he thought otherwise. He found the enthusiasm not only to restart the game after the war, but, in spite of his handicap, to become a first-class player himself.

It is also largely due to the efforts and enthusiasm of Lord Cowdray that polo is no longer a game for the wealthy only. "Anyone with a modest income can play," he says. Ponies can be hired at Cowdray for a small sum a chukka. A chukka lasts only $7\frac{1}{2}$ minutes, but the game is so strenuous that a pony can only play two in a day.

It is not, however, a "men only" game. There are mixed teams, with some brilliant women players. Outstanding is Mrs. John Lakin, sister of Lord Cowdray. Her courage and horsemanship equal that of the men with whom she plays. Lord Cowdray's other sisters are also distinguished players.

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THE BARB, WONDER HORSE OF THE SIXTIES

About the end of 1865 John Tait bought a little black horse, "no bigger than a pony." It was called "The Barb," and though an obvious sprinter, was condemned by most racing experts as too nervous and unpredictable for racing.

AT this time the greatest controversy in racing concerned the value of Fisherman blood. Many fans maintained that one of Fisherman's progeny, Fishhook, was the greatest horse of his day.

Fishhook was known in his home State of Victoria as the "three-thousand guinea horse."

With the clamour about Fishhook's greatness at its height, Tait announced scornfully that he had a small black horse that could walk over the mighty Fishhook.

To Victorians, such a statement was sacrilege. They challenged Tait to match this horse against Fishhook so that Victoria could show New South Wales just what a great horse really was.

The challenge came when Tait was not quite so confident.

Classic Match

The Barb was giving his jockeys a series of headaches. In one race at Homebush he backed halfway round the course while the others were racing for the finishing post. He then threw his jockey and headed after the field.

Tait refused to believe the horse could not be trained. He stuck to the job and was rewarded when The Barb beat some of the best in New South Wales.

When The Barb and Fishhook met in the classic match at the beginning of the 1866 Victorian autumn meeting it was colony versus colony.

Every loyal Victorian, whether he knew anything about racing or not, had his money on Fishhook. New South Welshmen gave the same blind support to The Barb.

It was a sorrowful and humiliating day for New South Wales. Fishhook won by two lengths.

John Tait refused to accept defeat. Before the meeting was over, he arranged another match with Fishhook. This time the little N.S.W. wonder came home an easy winner over his bigger rival.

Later that year, the horses met again in the A.J.C. Derby at Randwick. With every Sydneyite who "could drive, walk or be carried" to the course cheering him on, The Barb, by now affectionately called "The Black Demon," again downed Fishhook.

For the Melbourne Cup of 1866, Tait entered two horses, The Barb and Falcon.

The great little black horse from N.S.W. ran as he had never run before. With his short legs thrusting and driving, he

slid past horse after horse, hands higher than himself.

Great Cup Win

The Barb's was one of the greatest Melbourne Cup wins of the nineteenth century.

The Barb began to coin money like a mint. In 1868 and 1869 he took the Sydney Cup twice, the second time with 10.8 on his back. He also ran away with the Craven Plate, Royal Park Stakes, Port Phillip Stakes, the Victorian Queen's Plate and other rich races.

Altogether, The Barb started 23 times for 15 wins and £8,000 in stakes. What Tait won in bets no one will ever know.

—Abridged from special feature article in Sydney Daily Mirror.

Among the wonders of Mexico are hot and cold springs close together where tourists can watch women boiling clothes in a hot spring, then rubbing them in a cold clear one.

One tourist remarked to his guide, "I suppose these women think the gods are pretty generous, eh?" "No, señor," he replied. "They grumble because there is no soap."

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WHACKO, THE MOONSHINE!

IN the early days in German prison camps, the prisoners, or Kriegies, looked at the drink shortage in blank despair. Desultory efforts were made to obtain alcohol, it is true, such as drinking Silvo and hair tonic; but these were poor expedients, and never became fashionable.

One ingenious fellow wrote to two old flames, one whose father manufactured tinned soups, the other the daughter of a distiller. He implored these ladies to forget any little rivalries in the face of the common crisis, and they did. The result was that in time he received a case of soup tins, ostensibly containing consomme, but in fact filled with whiskey. But it only worked once: German security regulations soon took the lids off a scheme that deserved a better fate.

Other measures were needed, and soon a crude brewing and wine fermenting industry sprang up. The ingredients were various. Potatoes, turnips and other vegetables were tried, without any outstanding success. Raisins, which were obtained from Red Cross parcels, were far, far better. Since this activity was officially illegal, great care had to be exercised.

The Technique

One successful method was to remove the large white globe which surrounded the electric light, fill it with a mash of raisins, sugar and yeast, and then replace it. There it hung from the ceiling, with its slowly fermenting and maturing mixture, while thirsty prisoners eyed it anxiously. When the mixture ceased to work, it was taken down and strained through a vest, usually a clean one, though there were those who said that a vest which had been worn for a month or so gave the

wine more body. The wine was then aged for a day or so, and was consumed with great ritual by the manufacturers.

This product indubitably did one of the things it was supposed to: it intoxicated. For it is a melancholy fact that in those early days there could be no other criterion for judging home-made wine than its intoxicant coefficient. The subtler, more refined, more civilized properties of drink were still not available. Nevertheless, the wine-makers grew monstrous merry and hilarious, and were rewarded on the morrow with a genuine, old-fashioned hang-over. This was something to be prized, for to be hung over to the eyes was a rare privilege in that place.

Abridged from an article in "The Compleat Imbiber," published by W. & A. Gilbey & Son Ltd.

TOOK A BATH

Royal Assignment was so far in front with one fence to go in the Melbourne Hunt point-to-point at Narre Warren (Victoria) that his rider, Mr. T. Selman, had time to take a bath and still win. And this is just what Mr. Selman did, unintentionally, of course. Royal Assignment lost his footing at a drain approaching the last fence and fell. Mr. Selman was unseated and fell in a water-filled drain.

Royal Assignment rolled over the top of him, giving Mr. Selman a complete drenching. Undaunted, Mr. Selman grabbed Royal Assignment, remounted, and completed the course, 15 lengths in front of the second placegetter, Given Time. They're hardy, these amateurs.

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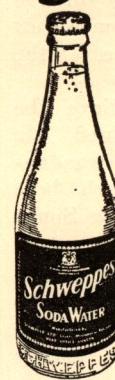
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Handball

'AMOUNIS

DRAW for the second round of this competition:—Top Half: Bruce Partridge v. Neil Barrell; Gordon Boulton v. E. E. Davis; Bill Kirwan v. John Brice; F. L. Bowes v. Ron Spencer; Viv Thicknesse v. Peter Lindsay; George McGilvray v. Geoff Eastment; Eric Thompson v. George Goldie; Clarrie Woodfield v. Peter Williams; John Dexter v. Malcolm Fuller; Ken Francis v. R. O. Cummings.

Bottom Half: Col Chatterton v. Andy McGill; Zade Lazarus v. Cuth Godhard; Trevor Barrell v. Fred Harvie; Arthur McCamley v. Geoff Laforest; Bob Adams v. K. Fidden, Jnr.; John Shaffran v. Col Bowes; Allan Stewart v. M. Sellen; Fred Daly v. Bill Phillips; C. L. Bear v. H. Doerner.

Several games have already been played. Bruce Partridge defeated Neil Barrell by 41-36, after a hard struggle. Neil had Bruce at his top from the beginning and made a good showing. George Goldie defeated Eric Thompson, 42-40, after an exciting game. George led 40-30 and needed only one point for an easy victory, but Eric, playing extra well, drew level at 40 each only to lose the next two points and the match.

Fred Harvie defeated Trevor Barrell 41-38 after a good game. Trevor is showing improvement and did well to hold Fred, a top-line player, to within three points.

Geoff Laforest was a bit lucky to defeat Arthur McCamley, 41-38. Nevertheless, Geoff could be a real improver if he would only practice. This was a good game. Col Bowes defeated John Shaffran, 41-36. This was no disgrace, as Col on his handicap is one of the most improved players in the compe-

TROPHY'

tition and is tipped to be near the finish when the final comes round.

Gordon Boulton had bad luck. He had arranged to play Eddie Davis, but had a fall in a practice game a couple of days previously. An X-ray showed that he had broken a bone in his foot. He had to withdraw from the event.

Young man to draft board: "But you can't turn me down—I've proposed to three girls, told my boss what I think of him, and sold my car!"

* * *

Wife, surrounded by rough-housing small fry, to husband: "Last time, you went into the Army! This time I want to go!"

BEACH-HANLON

Back in 1884 the Australian sculler Bill Beach met the Canadian Hanlon for the world sculling championship on the Parramatta River. A contemporary newspaper report quoted by "The Coal Miner" recorded the end of the race—which Beach won—this way:

"Amid incredible scenes of excitement, hats are tossed into the water, and blown away . . . men leap from decks of steamers in a frenzy of joyful excitement, clasp hands, hug one another . . there is a roar as when a nation rejoices over a deliverance rather than as when a crowd shouts over a race well won. The cliffs echo it, the trees vibrate to it, and the gale lifts and rolls down the Harbour."

That was partisanship, an enjoyment of sports-watching that departed with side-whiskers and straw hats.

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Swimming

PROGRESS IN NATIVE SON TROPHY COMPETITION

THOUGH Bob Harris, winner of the "Native Son" contest two years ago, has not been on top much this season, brother Jack, in his second year with the Swimming Club, kept the family flag flying by tieing with Les Bear in the latest monthly Point Score.

Jack must have put in some solid work during the holiday season for his record in the last four races was three heat wins and two finals.

What's more he had the honour — he may call it something else — of being one of the few swimmers in the Club's history to lose two seconds off his handicap in the one event.

His best time now stands at 22.8 secs. and he's far from out of the running even now.

Les Bear, who tied with Harris for the trophy, also tied in the first Point Score of the season, with Harry Davis.

Peter Lindsay was third on the list and had already filled that position in an earlier series.

By the way, we want to know what's wrong with Peter. In the last two Brace Relays he has won his heats but on both occasions his partners have failed to turn up for the finals. Must be some explanation.

Beating Their Times

The boys continue to beat their times, six of them paying the penalty of a loss of one second off their handicaps — Harry Davis (with a close to best 20.9 secs.), Arthur McCamley, Cuth Godhard, Jack Harris, Geoff Eastment and Sid Sernack.

Others will "go off" soon. For stop press news see next month's issue.

Best winning times of the

month were by Malcolm Fuller 20.7 secs. and Harry Davis 20.9.

A newcomer who will make his presence felt is Phil O'Malley-Jones. Those who saw him swim his time trial tipped him as class and weren't surprised when the clock showed 21.5 secs. First race saw him swim a clipped finger nail third. Welcome, Phil!

What an enthusiast is Cuth. Godhard! Not content with fining himself a note for not swimming a straight course he is now carrying round a cheque for a fiver which will be donated to the Swimming Club on the day he swims or betters 25 secs, and thereby loses another second from his handicap.

Token of Esteem

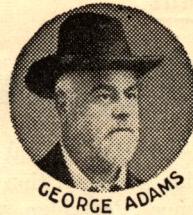
On January 24 the Third Floor boys took the opportunity to present a token of their esteem to Alf Field who has dispensed the lunches for some years. Alf has left the Club service through ill health and we'll miss him.

The field for the "Nature Son" trophy has closed up considerably since last month, nine swimmers figuring within nine points, and everything is set for a terrific contest even thus early.

Sid Sernack who lost the lead a month or so back to Trevor Barrell has now drawn level with his rival and they lead the field but only two points ahead of Peter Lindsay who has come up from fifth place.

Les Bear is making a fine run a further point and a half away and so is Leigh Bowes a point away.

Last season's winner, Geoff Laforest, is well in the running eight points behind the leader and level with Ralph Corrick, while Geoff Eastment and Cuth



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Swimming

Godhard are battling it out another point astern.

A good month, too, can put John Dexter, Col. Bowes, Harold Herman, Geoff Shaw and Harry Davis up among the leaders.

Results

January 17: 80 yards Brace Relay Handicap:—J. Harris and G. Laforest (47) 1, P. Lindsay and S. Sernack (49) 2, N. Barrell and F. L. Bowes (44) 3. Time 44.6 secs.

January 24: 40 yards Handicap:—1st Division Final—A. McCamley (31) 1, Dr. C. L. Bear (25) 2, H. E. Davis (22) 3. Time 29.5 sees. 2nd Division Final—J. Harris (25) 1, C. Godhard (27) 2; G. Goldie (37) 3. Time 22.8 sees.

January 31: 80 yards Brace Relay Handicap:—G. Eastment and M. Fuller (47) 1, G. Shaw and J. O. Dexter (47) 2; Dr. C. L. Bear and B. Chiene (49) and P. Lindsay and F. L. Bowes (46) 3. Time 44.4 sees.

February 7: 40 yards Handicap:—1st Division Final — G. Shaw (25) 1, G. Eastment (26) 2, F. Muller (26) 3. Time 24.3 sees. 2nd Division Final — S.

FOILED

To-night sheets of rain, strong wind. I put on over-shoes and mackintosh to go to the corner of the street to the post. Several times lately about 10 p.m. I have noticed a couple that stand under the big tree at the corner next to the pillar-box, shielded by the tree-trunk from the lamp-light. They stand motionless, with hands nearly meeting round each other's backs, tightly clasped. They were there to-night. The man was holding an umbrella over them. Can't see what sort of people they are. In the first place I don't like to intrude and in the second place the shade is so dark.—Arnold Bennett, "Journal", 1913.

Sernack (24) 1; Dr. C. L. Bear (25) 2, P. Lindsay (25) 3. Time 23 sees.

January-February Point Score

Final results:—J. Harris and Dr. C. L. Bear 23½ points, 1; P. Lindsay; 21½, 3; S. Sernack 20, 4; G. Laforest 19, 5; F. L. Bowes 18, 6; J. O. Dexter and C. Godhard 17, 7; C. Bowes 16, 9; F. Harvie 15½, 10; G. Eastment 15, 11; G. Shaw and A. McCamley 14½, 12; R. Corrick and J. Shaffran 14, 14; T. Barrell, F. Muller and M. Fuller 13, 16.

"Native Son" Point Score

On February 13 the leaders in this series, for all points scored during the season, were: — T. Barrell and S. Sernack 77, P. Lindsay, 75, Dr. C. L. Bear 73½, F. L. Bowes 72½, G. Laforest and R. Corrick 69, G. Eastment and C. Godhard 68, J. O. Dexter 62½, C. Bowes and H. Herman 57, G. Shaw 56, F. Harvie 55, H. E. Davis 53, S. Murray 52, J. Shaffran 51, A. McCamley 50½, N. Barrell 48½, A. Allsop 47, G. Goldie 45, R. Harris 44, J. Harris and G. Boulton 37½, R. Dowling 36, F. Muller 34, K. Francis and V. Thiecknesse 33½, M. Sellen 30.

SPORTING PASTORALIST

R. K. (JACK) LOUGHNAN, who shears 40,000 sheep on his Brewarrina property, offered to bet wool man and club member Jim Callachor that Beefwood, carrying Jack's colors in the Summer Cup, would run last by 100 yards. Jim took up the challenge, nominating the leeway at 25 yards. As Beefwood did not tail off the field, Jack paid Jim and Jim paid Jack, each claiming to have backed a winner.

Husband to wife reading contest rules: "I'll give you a prize myself, if you can finish any sentence in 25 words or less."

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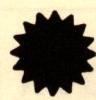
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(At Randwick)

Australian Jockey Club Wednesday, 4th
(At Randwick)

Australian Jockey Club Saturday, 7th
(At Randwick)

Sydney Turf Club Wednesday, 11th
(At Canterbury)

City Tattersall's Club Saturday, 14th
(At Randwick)

Sydney Turf Club Saturday, 21st
(At Rosehill)

Anzac Day Meeting Wednesday, 25th
(At Randwick)

Sydney Turf Club Saturday, 28th
(At Rosehill)

MAY, 1956

Australian Jockey Club Wednesday, 2nd
(At Warwick Farm)

Sydney Turf Club Saturday, 5th
(At Canterbury)

Australian Jockey Club Saturday, 12th
(At Warwick Farm)

Sydney Turf Club Wednesday, 16th
(At Canterbury)

Tattersall's Club Saturday, 19th
(At Randwick)

Sydney Turf Club Saturday, 26th
(At Rosehill)

Australian Jockey Club Wednesday, 30th
(At Warwick Farm)

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Sportsman Who Mingles With the Great

MAN, who made a boxing patron of the Duke of Edinburgh before he married the girl who was to be Queen of England, told of an occasion when the Duke, having been introduced in the ring, walked over to shake hands with Jimmy Slade, the American fighter, and playfully pulled a towel from Slade's head and tossed it out of the ring.

He rated English jockey, Harry Wragg, among the greatest. Wragg has won more British Derbies than any jockey in the long history of the classic. He won on Blenheim II, Felsted and Watling Street. He finished second three times, riding Hot Night, King Solomon and Gulfstream. He finished third once, riding Sandwich.

Wragg, now a trainer and breeder, was nicknamed "The Head Waiter" at the peak of his riding fame. When he won in a big race the newspapers didn't bother to use his name in the headlines. The top lines usually read: "The Head Waiter Wins Again."

Steve Donoghue's Win

The head waiter in British restaurants is a difficult fellow for a patron to find until the finish when the patron gets up to leave. Then the head waiter shows up out of nowhere to collect his tip. Wragg always was difficult to find until the finish of a race, when he came on with a rush to win in the last couple of strides.

Steve Donoghue was another of the favourite jockeys. Al-

though the great British jockey died several years ago, there was a period when Donoghue's riding activities were curtailed. Donoghue was under contract to ride for his father-in-law. When his marriage to the boss's daughter went on the rocks, the old man refused to give Donoghue good mounts. So one day before the running of the Irish Derby, Donoghue walked into the clubhouse where the various owners were assembled.

"Is there a gentleman here who will let me ride for him?" asked Donoghue in a loud voice.

There was an instant of silence until an old farmer walked over and said: "You can ride for me any time, Steve."

The farmer's horse was a rank outsider; 100 to one shot. Steve won, after a brilliant ride, and nipped his father-in-law's entry on the post.

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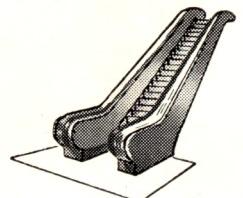
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